

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 15 and 22 - 36 are pending. Claims 1, 22 and 23 are amended and claims 28-36 are new. Claims 4-5, 7-14 and 16-21 are cancelled. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14 and 21-23.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6, 15 and 24 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Sano et al. (US Patent No. 5,562,985) as evident from the article by Dement'ev et al titled "Poisson's Ratio of Foamed Plastics."

This rejection has been overcome by adding the allowable subject matter of claim 14 into independent claim 1. Additionally, the allowable subject matter of claim 21 has been added to new independent claim 28, which duplicates claim 1. Dependent claims 22 and 23, originally depending from claim 21, have been changed to depend from new claim 28. New claims 29-36, depending from claim 28, are duplicates of claims 2, 3, 6, 15 and 24-27. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. Although this After Final Amendment adds new claims, it is respectfully submitted that this is a genuine attempt to respond to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in a way that advances prosecution and provides clear protection for Applicants invention. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney.

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